

**From:** Richard Reddy  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft

Hello DOJ,

I can see how this matter has become something entirely political.

No matter. I am all in favor of Open Source and the free software movement. My new PC is running GNU/Linux, a stable, powerful, robust OS that includes hundreds of free utilities and applications. Thousands more are available on the web. Open Source is the fastest growing software movement of all time, and already has 20 million users.

I am elated to find out that DOJ and Microsoft are both irrelevant, in light of larger movements of users who see a need for social change. If MS has a lock on the market, and charges high prices--and DOJ caves into political pressure from GOP, it doesn't matter at all. You are both irrelevant to me, and I intend to keep it that way.

DOJ failing to do anything noteworthy in antitrust is not the problem. I feel the problem is the model of "intellectual property" which drives the world of proprietary software. Proprietary software is an inferior product in the first place, and also rediculously expensive.

Obviously there is too much corruption to police the markets with the interests of consumers (computer users) in mind. But, we are certainly smart enough, and energetic enough to send Microsoft packing! In twenty years, they will be a monopoly without users.

It's difficult to dislike Gates, who really is a wonderful fellow--the most generous philanthropist we have seen in decades. But, monopolistic influence greatly inhibits innovation, gouges consumers, buries competitors and it's not where we want to go. I say we put the entire model of proprietary software on the slag heap, along with the "market" we hear so much about, that relies on throwing people in jail, should they exhibit normal user behaviors in violation of copyright. MS is so unpopular they will never be able to hang on to users, who now have attractive alternatives.

Can't say I think highly of DOJ! Rest assured your counterparts in Europe, as well as individual states--will not be succceptable to manipulation by the Bush Administration. This is the only explanation that seems to account for letting MS off the hook, but some states and nations are not inclined to politicise matters of unfair competition.

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